

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 9 through 16 and 18 are pending, with Claims 9 and 18 being independent. Claims 1 through 8 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 13 has been amended.

The Official Action sets forth an election of species requirement. In particular, the Official Action requires that Applicants elect one of the following species for prosecution on the merits: Species 1: Fig. 1; Species 2: Fig. 5; and Species 3: Fig. 8.

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species 1 (Fig. 1) and respectfully submit that at least Claims 9, 10, 13, and 18 are readable thereupon, with at least Claims 9 and 18 being generic.

However, the election of species requirement respectfully is traversed. Neither Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put through the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Further, the making of an election of species requirement is not mandatory in all instances. It is submitted that it would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to examine all of the pending claims in the present application. Accordingly, in the interests of prosecution and economy of time, for Applicants, the Office, and the public-at-large, reconsideration and withdrawal of the election of species requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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